

Andrew Jackson to Stephen A. Hopkins, February 18, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL STEPHEN A. HOPKINS.¹

¹ Of the Louisiana militia.

New Orleans, February 18, 1815.

Genl Hopkins will please to report to the undersigned the number of Troops at the advanced Post on the Lafourch, the number of Troops of his Brigade in the field and at what other Points stationed, whether if Permitted to return to their homes, on a case of emergency occurring how long it would require to collect the whole force of the Brigade to meet an invading enemy at the advance post. These enquiries are made on the solicitation of the Brigade to return to their homes—with a view to the prudence and safety of granting the application, whilst the enemy remain on our coast²

² Replying, Feb. 22, 1815, General Hopkins said:

“The troops detached, and under my immediate command from the 8th Regiment, would have to perform a march of one hundred and twenty miles, (the most of them); these from the 6th, eighty miles, (from the extreme of the Regiment) and those from the 7th sixty miles, (also from the extreme part of the Regiment); from the 9th Regiment consisting of only about three hundred effective men, I have never ordered to march out of their Parish, with the exception of a small company of cavalry. I have now a picket at Bayou Bouef consisting of fifteen men; one of Twenty, fifty miles down the Fourche, and a company of mounted men, consisting of one hundred effective men, stationed, (untill a few days past) at the several passes where I thought it *possible the enemy*, in case of

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an attack in this quarter might attempt a landing. On Bayou Manchac I have constantly had a picket, from ten, to twenty five men, as also another on Bayou Plaquemine and a company commanded by Captain Le Bougins has been charged with the care of the Bayou Arcadian. At this place I have four hundred men; the number I had, having considerably diminished from sickness, as also from desertion, the latter however I am daily bringing in. Should the troops be permitted to return home, I should not be able to rally and march to the extreme advance post on Lafourche, six hundred Men, in less than five days."

respectfully yr mo. ob. serv.